

## Treatment Review Panel Committee (TRP) Meeting

February 19, 2009  
Executive Director's Office  
Dale Building

Chair: Stuart Graves, Wanda Cosman, Richard Lanza, Terry Rowe,  
Tom Simpatico (via phone during last part of meeting).  
Attendees: Scott Perry, Ed Riddell, Anne Jerman (part of the meeting)  
Minute Taker: Cheryl Goodwin-Abare

The Committee reviewed the last meeting minutes. Stuart Graves asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Richard Lanza motioned to accept the minutes. Wanda Cosman seconded the motion. All in favor, motioned passed unanimously.

Ed Riddell, Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint Coordinator, gave an overview of the NASMHPD (National Association of Mental Health Program Directors) Reduction and Seclusion Leadership training that happened on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. All of the hospital leadership attended including some of the doctors, social workers, nurses and psychiatric technicians from all shifts at VSH. One to two weeks after this training a meeting was called together to address recommendations for the next steps. Ed also talked about the two day VSH Celebration regarding seclusions and restraints that was held on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in the VSH Library that resulted in great attendance from various staff members. There was also discussion on the Violent and Prevention meetings which are taking place now on all three wards at VSH. Ed talked about the six core strategies.

There is a Rules Committee being developed to become in effect in April.

Terry Rowe said she talked with Wendy Beininger from the Legal Department about the possibility of disbanding the Treatment Review Panel. Wendy had told Terry no, VSH cannot disband the Treatment Review Panel. Terry will invite Wendy to the next Treatment Review Panel meeting scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss this with the members.

Terry also brought up to the members that there is a meeting every Wednesday at 9:00 and perhaps the Treatment Review Panel members would like to attend and work with that group.

Wanda Cosman said that the frequency of the Treatment Review Panel Meeting is not good and it is very difficult to get a quorum together for these meetings.

Terry stated that a new Grievance Policy was just completed. Terry also discussed with the members the process of grievances at VSH.

Terry noted that Tom Simpatico, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Public Psychiatry at the University of Vermont College of Medicine who has served as Medical Director for Vermont State Hospital since 2004, will be leaving that position in July 2009 in order to direct the Veteran's Jail Diversion Initiative. In order to effect a seamless transition, Dr. Jay Batra will assume the role of Associate Medical Director for VSH immediately, and will become VSH Medical Director this coming July.

Dr Simpatico will manage the Veteran's Jail Diversion Initiative which is funded through a SAMHSA grant worth \$2.1 million over 5 years. As part of a public-private partnership between UVM/ FAHC and the Vermont Agency of Human Services Department of Mental Health, this project will create, deploy and maintain a behavioral health care management system for veterans and other persons with trauma-related illness, traumatic brain injury, serious mental illness and/or substance abuse. The objective is to seamlessly integrate clinical care for these individuals at all levels of the "real world" system. In addition, this project will facilitate regulatory management, guide clinical practices and create a clinical outcomes data warehouse for retrospective and prospective decision support regarding clinical, administrative and financial matters. Dr. Batra is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the UVM College of Medicine. He trained in Psychiatry at Fletcher Allen Health Care/UVM, and currently serves as the Unit Clinical Director on VSH's B1 Unit. Prior to his current role, Dr. Batra served as the Medical Director of the Colby Inpatient Psychiatric Unit at the Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake, NY. He is an excellent clinician and an avid teacher.

Scott Perry brought in the only grievance from October to January that involved involuntary procedures. This was reviewed by the panel and also Karen Vasseur from Medical Records brought in this patient's chart for the members to review. Stuart Graves asked if Anne Jerman could come to this meeting today to discuss this grievance. Anne Jerman arrived and reviewed this grievance with the members. The TRP members would like Anne to come to future meetings to discuss grievances with them.

Scott also pointed out that there were 74 grievances since October and Anne Jerman responded 100% to these grievances.

Scott handed out graphs on emergency involuntary medications; episodes of restraints; and episodes of seclusions for the members to review.

Decompress the unit – this will be put on April's Treatment Review Panel Agenda.

DOJ's utilization of preplacement visits and short visits will be put on April's Agenda.

No public attended.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and the next meeting was identified as Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted  
Cheryl Goodwin-Abare - Minute taker